

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 IO-10 OMB-01 FBO-02 A-01

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R 161700Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1438

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

AMEXBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 1892

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, US, UR

SUBJECT: HILLENBRAND-ABRASIMOV LUNCHEON,
SEPT 15

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING FIRST CONVERSATION WITH AN ALLIED AMBASSADOR SINCE MAY 12 LUNCHEON WITH AM HILLENBRAND (USBERLIN 924), SOVIET AMB ABRASIMOV SEEMED RELAXED ON BERLIN ISSUES WHILE STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF CSCE AND US-SOVIET RELATIONS. IN ALMOST PRO FORMA FASHION HE REPEATED CUSTOMARY SOVIET PIQUE WITH POLITICAL DECISIONS TAKEN BY BONN WITH SANCTION OF ALLIES. ABRASIMOV DENIED THAT SOVIET AIR FORCE HAD VIOLATED CORRIDOR REGIME WHILE ADDING THAT HE HAD GIVEN SOVIET AIR FORCE PILOTS STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID VIOLATIONS. AS IF TO COUNTER ALLIED CRITICISM IN THIS AREA, HE OBJECTED TO THE FAILURE OF THE ALLIES TO INCLUDE THE USSR IN THE INVESTIGATION
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OF THE WEST GERMAN CESSNA WHICH LANDED IN BERLIN ON

AUG 30 AND HE REFERRED TO RECENT MISTAKES OF ALLIED CONTROLLERS IN BASC. AS EXPECTED, HE MADE A FRESH PLEA FOR PERMISSION TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL REAL PROPERTY AND TO FORM JOINT VENTURES IN WSB.

2. AMB HILLENBRAND IN REPLY STRESSED THE WESTERN BELIEF THAT THE QA WAS A SUCCESS AND THAT THE ALLIES HAD NO INTENTION OF PERMITTING ANY VIOLATIONS. HE SUGGESTED THE SOVIETS SHOULD APPROACH BERLIN QUESTIONS WITH LESS SUSPICION. AMB THEN RAISED SERIOUS AIR INCIDENTS OF JULY 25 AND AUG 13, STRESSING THE COMMON INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES IN AVOIDING AN ACCIDENT. AMBASSADOR DID NOT DENY MISTAKES HAD BEEN MADE IN BASC BUT THOUGHT SOME CONFUSION WAS INEVITABLE IN LIGHT OF MOVE TO TEGEL. THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED RECIPROCITY AS A KEY REASON WHY THE WEST COULD NOT GO BEYOND QA LIMITS IN PERMITTING THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY IN WSB. ON JOINT VENTURES, HE SUGGESTED THAT AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH FELL SHORT OF CREATING A NEW CORPORATE ENTITY WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AND HE SUGGESTED THAT EXPERTS STUDY THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

3. AMB ABRASIMOV EXERCISED HOST'S PREROGATIVE AT SEPT 15 LUNCHEON FOR AMB HILLENBRAND BY STARTING POST-PRANDIAL DISCUSSION WITH A TRIBUTE TO CSCE. HE SAID HE HAD READ CAREFULLY THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, ESPECIALLY THE PORTION CONCERNING BERLIN. WHAT THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV HAD SAID AT HELSINKI ABOUT DETENTE MUST NOW BE FILLED WITH CONTENT. THE QA IS BEING FULFILLED SATISFACTORILY AS A WHOLE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE VIOLATIONS AND THE SOVIET SIDE CAREFULLY NOTES EACH ONE. THERE HAS BEEN THE ACTIVE PRESENCE IN BERLIN OF THE BUNDESTAG AND BUNDESRAT (PRESUMABLY REFERENCE TO ROUTINE COMMITTEE MEETINGS HERE), AND OTHER EFFORTS TO BRING WEST BERLIN CLOSER POLITICALLY TO THE FRG. AMB HILLENBRAND SHOULD BRING THESE VIOLATIONS TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN BONN.

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4. TURNING TO THE DANGEROUS CORRIDOR INCIDENTS AMB HILLENBRAND HAD RAISED ON MAY 12, AMB ABRASIMOV SAID THAT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION HAD REVEALED THAT THE FAULT WAS THAT OF THE ALLIES AND THAT ALLEGED NEAR-MISSES HAD BEEN EXAGGERATED BY ALLIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE WESTERN SIDE HAD ASKED PERMISSION (SIC) IN BASC FOR FLIGHTS WHEN THE AIRCRAFT WERE ALREADY IN THE CORRIDOR AND FOR UNKNOWN REASONS A

WEST GERMAN CESSNA HAD RECENTLY LANDED IN BERLIN.
"AS THE FOURTH POWER WHY WERE WE NOT ALLOWED TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE INVESTIGATION?" ABRASIMOV ASKED.

5. ABRASIMOV RENEWED HIS MAY 12 PLEA FOR PERMISSION
FOR SOVIET TRADE OFFICE TO PURCHASE APARTMENTS IN
WEST BERLIN TO AVOID HIGH RENTAL PAYMENTS AND FOR
AUTHORIZATION FOR SOVIETS TO FORM JOINT VENTURES
SUCH AS THEY HAD IN FRANCE, ENGLAND AND BELGIUM
WHERE THEY PRESUMABLY DID NOT THREATEN THE INTERESTS
OF THOSE COUNTRIES. LAST YEAR SOVIET FIRMS IN WSB
WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DM 62,000,000 OF WEST BERLIN
TRADE, ONLY THREE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. WHAT
SOVIETS WANT IS A MIXED FIRM WITH 70 PERCENT
GERMAN AND 30 PERCENT SOVIET CAPITALIZATION.

6. ABRASIMOV THEN MENTIONED THE CASE OF A DRUNKEN
SOLDIER WHOM SOVIETS HAD RETURNED FROM GDR TERRITORY
(SOLDIER IN FACT WAS BRITISH, NOT AMERICAN) AND CASE
OF THREE US SOLDIERS WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED IN A
PROHIBITED AREA NEAR A SOVIET UNIT. (WE PRESUME
HE WAS REFERRING TO SEPT 6 DETENTION REPORTED
USBERLIN 1828.) IN THE LATTER CASE, ABRASIMOV
HAD BEEN ASKED WHAT TO DO AND HE HAD SAID LET THEM
GO. (ABRASIMOV THEN SHOWED PHOTOS OF THE THREE
SOLDIERS PURPORTING MAKE CLEAR THEY WERE IN OFF-
LIMITS AREA.) THESE WERE EXAMPLES OF THE SOVIET
DESIRE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BUILD GOOD
RELATIONS IN BERLIN. HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED WHEN
THE US SIDE, FAR FROM THANKING HIM, HAD PROTESTED
THE DETENTION OF THE SOLDIERS (US BERLIN 1846).

7. AMB HILLENBRAND REPLIED WITH INITIAL
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GENERAL OBSERVATIONS THAT THE WA WAS A SUCCESS AND
MUST BE MAINTAINED AND OBSERVED. THERE WOULD BE
DIFFERENCES OF VIEW OF SUCH A COMPLICATED AGREE-
MENT, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE LANGUAGE WAS GENERAL AND
DID NOT SPECIFY EXACTLY WHAT WAS AND WAS NOT TO
BE DONE. HOWEVER, NEITHER SIDE HAD AN INTEREST IN
INTERPRETING THE AGREEMENT TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE
OTHER. SPEAKING FOR ALL THREE POWERS, THE AMBASSADOR
SIAD WE HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT IN FUTURE VIOLATE
THE QA NOR WILL WE PERMIT VIOLATIONS TO TAKE PLACE.
THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED AT THIS POINT TO THE
SECRETARY'S AUTUMN 1974 CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN
GROMYKO DURING WHICH ALLIED PROCEDURES TO CONSULT
WITH EACH OTHER ON ACTIONS BY THE WESTERN SIDE WERE
DISCUSSED. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS A SOVIET APPROACH

TO BERLIN ISSUES NOT SO FULL OF SUSPICION. THE SOVIETS SHOULD NOT READ INTO WESTERN ACTIONS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE WEST GERMANS, INTENTIONS WHICH ARE NOT THERE. WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN SANCTIONING VIOLATIONS BUT WILL ACT AS WOULD A REASONABLE MAN IN INTERPRETING THE GREY AREAS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SCA-01 SCS-03 /090 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 1892

8. TURNING TO AIR PROBLEMS, AMB HILLENBRAND NOTED THAT THERE HAD AGAIN BEEN SERIOUS INCIDENTS ON JULY 25 AND AUG 13. THERE WAS NO POINT IN TRADING ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE FACTS. HOWEVER, BOTH SIDES HAVE A COMMON INTEREST IN AVOIDING AN ACCIDENT. THE AMBASSADOR TRUSTED THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD TAKE WHATEVER MEASURES IT CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO AVOID ACCIDENTS. IT WAS TRUE THAT THERE HAD BEEN ERRORS INBASC AS OUR CONTROLLERS HAD ADMITTED BUT PART OF THE PROBLEM AROSE FROM THE CONFUSION RESULTING FROM THE MOVE TO TEGEL.

9. ON THE PROPERTY QUESTION, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED
THAT WHATEVER RENT THE SOVIETS PAID IN WEST BERLIN,
IT PALED BY CAMPARISON WITH WHAT THE US PAYS IN
EAST BERLIN. IN ANY EVENT, THE US HAS NOT BEEN
PERMITTED TO PURCHASE PROPERTY IN EAST BERLIN:
THERE IS NO RECIPROCITY. ON JOINT VENTURES, AMB
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HILLENBRAND THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE A MISUNDERSTANDING.
WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THE SOVIET UNION APPOINTING
AN EXCLUSIVE AGENT OR WITH ANY KIND OF COOPERATIVE
AGENCY THE SOVIETS MIGHT WISH TO ESTABLISH. THE
PROBLEM COMES WITH THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE
FIRM, A CORPORATE ENTITY OR G.M.B.H. THE AMBASSADOR
SUGGESTED THAT EXPERTS FROM BOTH SIDES LOOK AT THE
QUESTION. THE PROBLEM IS NOT ONE OF GERMAN LAW,
IT 2)G!K_
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